

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

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R 111202Z JAN75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 83

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FOR LUMSDEN NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : OSCI

SUBJECT : SMITHSONIAN ACTIVITIES IN QATAR: VISIT OF DR. FAROUK
EL BAZ

1. DR. FAROUK EL BAZ, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTIONS' NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, VISITED DOHA JAN 3-8. EL BAZ, WHO HAD VISITED DOHA IN JUNE 1974 AS USIA LECTURER, WAS IN QATAR AT INVITATION OF GOQ MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. HE DELIVERED SEVERAL LECTURES AT QATAR UNIVERSITY ON SPACE SUBJECTS, AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE PRIVATE VISIT OF US APOLLO 15 ASTRONAUT COLONEL JAMES IRWIN WHO WAS IN DOHA DEC 31-JAN 3. EL BAZ EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED BY GOQ OFFICIALDOM AND PUBLIC.

2. EL BAZ INDICATED TO ME THAT IN A SENSE HIS VISIT TO QATAR ALSO HAS AN OFFICIAL CHARACTER SINCE HE IS DISCUSSING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE WITH SMITHSONIAN'S CONCURRENCE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING ORBITAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF QATAR FROM JOINT APOLLO/SOYUZ MISSION NEXT SUMMER.

3. I TOLD EL BAZ THAT I HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPT ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF HIS VISIT AND THAT EMBASSY MUST BE UMBRELLA AND POINT OF COORDINATION FOR ALL USG ACTIVITIES WITH GOQ. EL BAZ AGREED TO WORK THROUGH DEPT AND EMBASSY ON PROJECTS HERE FROM NOW ON. I GAVE EL BAZ NAME OF NEA/ARP'S LUMSDEN AS POINT OF CONTACT AND TOLD HIM I WAS SURE THAT SMITHSONIAN MUST HAVE LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS WITH DEPT FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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4. COMMENT: I REQUEST THAT LUMSDEN GET IN TOUCH WITH EL BAZ WHEN HE RETURNS TO US WEEK OF JAN 12 TO REITERATE NEED FOR KEEPING US IN PICTURE ON HIS ACTIVITIES IN QATAR. HE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THIS. HOWEVER, I DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO INHIBIT HIM IN ANY WAY SINCE HE IS FIRST CLASS PERSON WHO HAS ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH GOQ. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST BE INFORMED ABOUT ALL USG ACTIVITIES HERE, AND I'D APPRECIATE THE DEPT'S SEEING TO IT THAT WE ARE SO INFORMED IN THE FUTURE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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